

Washington, DC -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today asked the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency to immediately include Dutchess County on the Emergency Declaration list for New York. Local officials and residents in the City of Poughkeepsie, located in Dutchess County, have reported extensive damage and flooding from the Fall Kill Creek, but the county has yet to be included on the Emergency Declaration list, reducing resources available to help to save lives and protect property, public health and safety in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Irene.

The full text of Hinchey's letter to FEMA follows. A PDF can be found [here](#).

August 29, 2011

Hon. William Craig Fugate, Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Fugate:

I am writing to request that Dutchess County be immediately included on the Emergency Declaration list for New York.

As you know, the emergency declaration issued in anticipation of Hurricane Irene included New York City's five boroughs and Long Island. This list was quickly amended to include a number of counties in the Hudson Valley, including Westchester, Putnam, Orange and Ulster counties.

Local officials and residents in the City of Poughkeepsie, located in Dutchess County, have reported extensive damage and flooding from the Fall Kill Creek. This morning's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hurricane Irene update used Poughkeepsie as the reference point for Hudson River flooding. Residents left without electricity or the ability to deal with flooding may be evacuated.

The mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie and the Dutchess County Executive have requested

FEMA's assistance and resources, and I request that you amend the Emergency Declaration for New York to include Dutchess County.

Thank you for your continued diligence during this relief effort.

Sincerely,

Maurice D. Hinchey

cc: Lynn Gilmore Canton, FEMA Regional Administrator, Region II

Philip E. Parr, Federal Coordinating Officer